

As it looks to Luke

Another kick, in a way

Memorial Day in the Moroni, Sanpete County Cemetery has come and gone. Since I was not able to be there — I did not get a chance to kick a particular tombstone that has occupied my attention — and much of yours over the past few years.

But ...

Justice, if you can still call it that and I'm beginning to wonder, was still done after a fashion.

If you remember my columns of years ago in the Herald — the story goes back to my great-grandfather William Luke — and my wife's great-grandparents the Jensen's.

In different, unrelated ways — the owner of the tombstone in question in Moroni pulled what I consider a pretty dirty trick on both our families.

I cannot divulge too many de-

tails. His identity would become obvious to too many people and their multitudinous descendants right here in Provo, would become aware who he is.

Suffice it to say he was a Mormon ecclesiastical leader of great prominence and overall, probably great good.

But — using his ecclesiastical power of the day — he was able to do things which sometimes resulted in an abuse of that power.

Years ago when I learned both family stories, I concluded that at least some token of resentment, or whatever, was justified.

Since something relatively harmless and symbolic was the only thing justified, I decided years ago to give the tombstone a couple of relatively gentle kicks, one for her family and one for mine. Since the tombstone is large and solid there

was no danger of damaging it or kicking it over.

Except when it started to lean from natural causes as the years went on, I gingerly began kicking it from the lower side. So I kick it gently twice each Memorial Day, feeling a certain mollification but not a great deal of satisfaction.

This year however, illness prevented me from getting to the Moroni Cemetery on Memorial Day. My wife and daughter went instead a day or two before.

That, I thought, would be the end. My gentle, non-vindictive wife, would never kick the tombstone.

But I didn't count on her having enough spunk to do something else less harmful but equally symbolic.

She had a couple of pansies in her hand left over from decorating other graves. My daughter said



Theron Luke

without hesitation she firmly threw them one by one at the tombstone.

I guess it accomplished just as much in what I set out to do years ago.

And it was certainly more in keeping with her than imitating me.

... Luke said the family felt that much of the columnist's writing had a timeless quality that made it perfect for inclusion in a book format.

She said Luke's writing is full of his wit and wisdom about life and personalities in Utah County today and yesterday.

Many of Luke's columns are pieces of Utah folk art about

Luke's columns compiled in book

9 Dec 1987

By PATRICK CHRISTIAN

ld Staff Writer

ld buy a balcony
he Uinta Theater
Crest) for 15 cents
ate Theron H. Luke
1930 to Brigham
versity to begin his
lies.

began to write a
ce a week for the
newspaper called
and Listen."

requently wrote an-
nn called, "As it
uke," for years for

Herald and for
the Deseret News
columns stopped
shed in The Herald
d in July at 75.

y columns from the
a half years of his
een published in a
ok, edited by his
yne Luke and pub-
ncore Performance
of Orem, and may
nd in local book-
95.

not my book, it's
and I think he
liked it," said the
daughter and edi-



Theron Luke

Utah life and the interesting characters of ordinary people, she said.

"A lot of people who read my father's work mentioned to family members that they wanted a book of his columns.

"It's interesting that even people who never met my dad have said they felt they knew him because his personality came so clearly through in his columns."

In one column, Luke explained how he wrote:

"I do not write profoundly. I write what I see, and hear, and most of all what I feel.

"You feel more, I have found, as you get older. I know Utah Valley and its people. I have always felt deeply about them. I always will."

Theron Luke's books go to UVCC

History class to be revived

Many remember the lively Utah history lectures given by Theron Luke, longtime city editor and wire editor at The Daily Herald. His class met at the (then) Utah Technical College, now Utah Valley Community College, Provo campus.

In an attempt to partially fill the void left Luke's passing, Mrs. Luke has worked with UVCC and Oscar F. Jaspersen, Jr., Department Chair of Social Science/Human Services to bring back the lecture series by way of the videotapes made of one of the last courses her husband taught. She has also made all his source books available to the college.

The 10-week class will begin April 24 at 7 p.m. in the library on the Provo campus, just west of Helaman Halls. A display case there will be arranged with memorabilia from Luke's teaching and journalism career.

There is plenty of free parking west of the building, just off University Ave.

Registration is \$20 or \$35 for two people. Those who register before April 20 will receive a copy off "As It Looked to Luke," a compilation of his newspaper columns that was gathered and published posthumously by his family.

Those interested may call Robert Carter, 489-8256, Zelda Luke, 373-2492, or UVCC, Continuing Educa-



Herald Photo/Patrick J. Krohn

Oscar F. Jaspersen, Jr., left, accepts Theron Luke's history books from Zelda Luke as Robert and Lyndia Carter hold some of the material to be used in the upcoming class inspired by Luke's lectures.

tion (222-8000). Or registration may be done at the college.

Carter will conduct the class and be available to answer questions, clarify ideas and referee discussions in conjunction with the video tapes. He and his wife both teach in the Alpine school district. She will help with the class.

Lectures include a wide-range of provocative topics such as Mormon Civil Government, the State of Deseret, the Territorial Government, and the Mormon "ghost government." Also included are military history, Mormon-Indian relations, Johnston's Army, the Utah War, and the founding of Fort Douglas during the Civil War.

Some classes will deal with social history, such as the Utah before the Mormons (Indians and mountain men), the coming of the Mormons, the handcart companies,

the Morrisite incident, Deseret alphabet and the ever-interesting polygamy.

Utah mining and economic history will also be covered. Along the way Luke and Carter will throw in many other events along the "Rock Road to Statehood."